

Committee creates environment for partnership

Environmental issues addressed in forum

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

"It is rocket science at its best," said Garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin. But he was not referring to the aviation, missile or even Marshall Space Flight's activities. Devlin was talking about Redstone Arsenal's environmental programs, and the function of the Environmental Quality Control Committee.

Terry Hazle, director of the Environment and Safety Directorate, describes the committee and its purpose as "a way of sharing information." Both Hazle and Devlin emphasize that the large number of tenants on Redstone Arsenal means working together as a team to comply with environmental laws and regulations is not an option, but a requirement.

Hazle reinstituted the Environmental

Quality Control Committee in 2003. The committee was at one time used to brief environmental issues to higher levels, but the EQCC is now what Hazle describes as a "working level" group. The committee, chaired by the Garrison commander, uses the quarterly, one-hour meetings "to bring together all the folks from the various organizations that handle environmental tasks and issues to share information and resolve environmental issues," Hazle said.

Sharing knowledge

Gene Daniels, an environmental engineer with the Installation Compliance Team, coordinates the meetings, which incorporates the many diverse and complex missions at Redstone.

"We try to have three or four topics for each meeting," Daniels said. "For instance, last quarter, the presentations included military range environmental issues from the Installation Restoration Team, pollution prevention and sustainability at Marshall Space Flight Center, and an overview of the Local Emergency Planning Committee."

Daniels included the Local Emergency Planning Committee topics at the last meeting and combined the two committees into one because members of the EQCC are also members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. "We save time by covering the issues of Local Emergency Planning Committee in this meeting," he said. Daniels emphasizes that the EQCC has been successful so far because, while the missions of the organizations vary, everyone still falls under the same regulations and must handle hazardous waste, hazardous materials and environmental issues the same way.

Craig Northridge, chief of the Installation Compliance Division, also noted the benefits of gaining knowledge from other organizations' environmental work.

"At the September 2003 meeting last year, Northrop Grumman BAT discussed how they managed their hazardous wastes. Some of the procedures they utilize, based on their experiences here and elsewhere, can be transferred to other organizations on the installation," Northridge said. "For example, it may give someone doing maintenance an idea of how to implement a better procedure in managing their waste."

Northridge also used a prior meeting to discuss the new Hazardous Waste/Air Permit for Open Burn/Open Detonation, while a Solid Waste Management presentation last September introduced the new Material Certification and Delivery Ticket

forms that anyone using the Redstone Arsenal Construction and Demolition Landfill would need to submit.

Meeting agenda

"We are always looking for new and better ideas," Devlin said. His reference to rocket science was based on the amount of planning, work and technical expertise that goes into making a successful environmental program — and not just in interpreting and implementing regulations. "One example is the great success we've had with the Harper's Umbrella Plant, a state-listed threatened species," Devlin said.

He cites conservation and protection as just another way Redstone is proving itself to be a leader in environmental work by not only finding the best approaches and technology, but also in establishing productive partnerships with other groups and organizations.

Devlin and Hazle welcome Team Redstone members interested in the EQCC to attend the meetings. The next meeting is Feb. 10 from 9-10 a.m. in building 4488, room A-311. A Chugach Management Services representative is scheduled to discuss the recycling facility as the featured presentation. Mosquitoes/West Nile virus, and Risk Management and Decision Making are also included on the agenda. Anyone outside the committee interested in attending or has questions should call Gene Daniels at 955-7591.

Center acquires future contract specialists

Interns

continued from page 6

"The moral of the story is that you learn from your mistakes. You hold yourself accountable for mistakes and say, 'yes, I did it,'" she said. "There is so much in the government that isn't taught anywhere else."

The center guides its interns in on-the-job training through mentors. "Every intern is assigned a person in their division to take them under their wing, to

plug them in and show them the resources available," Terry said.

Cruze thinks the learning experience between the mentor and the intern seems to be two fold. "When an intern asks questions about the mentor's job it makes them pause and really think 'Why am I doing this, this way?'"

"The new interns have shown remarkable motivation, great intelligence, a willingness to learn and a high work ethic," Terry said. "They are outstanding team players."